

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00593 211229Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 INT-05 OES-06 COME-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----211320Z 023114 /43

R 211034Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2595
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONGEN MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, TPHY, BU
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN PRESS CHARGES US WITH INCITING EARTHQUAKE PANIC

REF: SOFIA 0526

1. EXTERNAL SERVICE OF BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY (BTA)
MAR 11 AND INTERIOR MINISTRY NEWSPAPER ANTENI MAR 16
CARRIED PIECE WRITTEN BY BTA OVERSEAS SERVICE DIRECTOR
ALFRED KRISPN CHARGING US WITH TRYING TO FOMENT PANIC AMONG
BULGARIAN AND ROMANIAN POPULATIONS WITH REPORTS OF POSSIBLE
RECURRENCE OF MAR 4 EARTHQUAKE. US ACTIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED
AS "FLAGRANT, INHUMANE PROVOCATION . . . DIRECTED AGAINST
PUBLIC ORDER OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," PROMPTED BY ENVY
OF EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD DEAL
WITH CALAMITY. THIS WAS LINKED TO BLOC COUNTERATTACKS
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ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WITH ARTICLE STATING US BEHAVIOR
MADE CLEAR THAT PROFESSED "CONCERN FOR MAN" WAS "JUST
A HYPOCRITICAL POSTURE".

2. BULGARIAN PRESS FULMINATION CAN ALWAYS BE ANSWERED
BUT EXERCISE IS USUALLY NOT WORTH THE TIME. ON THIS
OCCASION, HOWEVER, BOUNDS OF DECENCY HAD BEEN SO FAR

SURPASSED THAT AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOURTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR PURVAN CHERNEV MAR 18 TO PROTEST THIS PARTICULARLY OUTRAGEOUS PIECE OF BULGARIAN DEFAMATORY PROPAGANDA, PARTICULARLY SINCE CHERNEV HIMSELF HAD BEEN PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE FUTURE EARTHQUAKE IN AREA AFTER SECRETARY VANCE'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT SOLE US INTENT IN PROVIDING RESULTS OF OUR TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE HAD BEEN DESIRE TO SHARE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION OF SOME CONCERN TO GOB IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. (WE HAD DONE SO AFTER OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST, AS PER REFTEL.)

3. CHERNEV RESPONDED HAHY HAD IN FACT PASSED INFORMATION, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "HELPFUL" AND "KINDLY PROVIDED," TO BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CHAIRMAN ANGEL BALEVSKI AND WAS FULLY CONVINCED HIMSELF THAT US HAD "NO COVERT PURPOSE" IN PROVIDING INFORMATION. HE WOULD RELAY US PROTEST TO "RESPONSIBLE CIRCLES".
FELDMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, ALLEGATIONS, EARTHQUAKES, THREATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770339/aaaabhgt.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, TPHY, BU, US
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Type: TE
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